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### Wolves that Pose as Sheep Part 2

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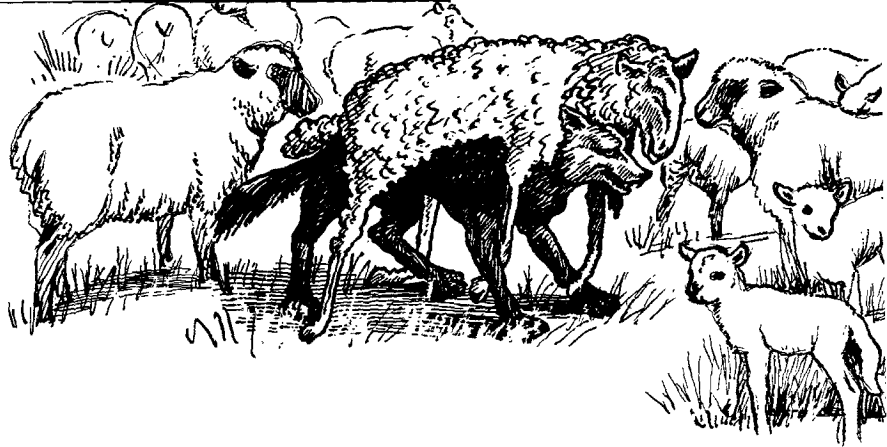
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# Wolves That Pose as Sheep

By Edwin R. Thiele



**L**AST week we pointed out seven telltale marks by which to identify pseudoreformers in the church. Their chief characteristic, we found, is a critical spirit that leads them to dwell on the faults and mistakes—whether real or imaginary—of their brethren in the church. This week we turn our attention to other traits of these self-appointed prophets.

8. *Their appearance conceals their true identity.* Jesus warned His disciples: "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits" (Matt. 7:15, 16). This is a clear test whereby false prophets may be distinguished from the true. Careful examination reveals that they are not what they appear to be. "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith," while among the works of the flesh are "hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies" (Gal. 5:22, 20). When submitted to this test—the fruitage of their activities—there need be no question as to the true character of would-be reformers. Their message is not one of love but of hatred, not of peace and unity but of bitterness and dissension. Their purpose is to convict, not to convert, to tear down, not to build up. In their writings and in their activities, however well concealed beneath a cloak of apparent righteousness and zeal, is a malignant spirit toward the church and its leaders. They reflect the spirit of Satan, whose example they emulate and whose work they do.

"Jesus has warned us to beware of false teachers. From the beginning of our work, men have arisen from time to time, advocating theories that were new and startling. But if those who claim to believe the truth would go to those who have had experience, would go to the word of God in a teachable, humble spirit, and examine their theories in the light of truth

and with the aid of the brethren who have been diligent Bible students, and at the same time make supplication unto God, asking, Is this the way of the Lord, or is it a false path in which Satan would lead me? they would receive light, and would escape out of the net of the fowler."—*Testimonies to Ministers*, p. 54.

Concerning God's people, Satan is represented as saying to his angels: "*We must cause distraction and division. We must destroy their anxiety for their own souls, and lead them to criticize, to judge, and to accuse and condemn one another, and to cherish selfishness and enmity. For these sins, God banished us from His presence; and all who follow our example will meet a similar fate.*"—*Ibid.*, p. 475. (Italics supplied.)

9. *They are zealous—for evil.* The great earnestness and zeal displayed by would-be reformers is, to some, a source of perplexity. But is not Satan himself extremely in earnest and zealous in his efforts against God and His people? By his own zeal he inspires

## A Bible Quiz

When a teacher was asked how many students were enrolled in his school, he replied, "If you *multiply* the number of Jacob's sons by the number of times the Israelites compassed Jericho on the seventh day, and *add* to the product the number of measures of barley Boaz gave Ruth; then *divide* this by the number of Haman's sons; *subtract* the number of each kind of unclean beast that went into the ark; *multiply* by the number of men who went to seek Elijah after he was taken to heaven; *subtract* from this Joseph's age at the time he stood before Pharaoh; *divide* by the number of stones David selected to kill Goliath; *subtract* the number of furlongs that Bethany was distant from Jerusalem; *multiply* by the number of anchors cast out at the time of Paul's shipwreck; *subtract* the number of people saved in the ark, the *remainder* will be the number of students enrolled in the school." How many were there?

Answer on page 22

those whom he is able to entice into his service. Not earnestness or zeal, but the cause in which the zeal is employed, is the test we are to apply.

"False teachers may appear to be very zealous for the work of God, and may expend means to bring their theories before the world and the church; but as they mingle error with truth, their message is one of deception, and will lead souls into false paths. They are to be met and opposed, not because they are bad men, but because they are teachers of falsehood and are endeavoring to put upon falsehood the stamp of truth."—*Ibid.*, p. 55.

10. *Criticism of others is often a cloak for the covering of evil.* The would-be reformers are, in fact, no better than those they would reform. If the facts were known, the lives of the critics would prove to be more reprehensible than the persons they single out for criticism. But they cleverly conceal their own shortcomings. Those who find fault with others frequently have the most glaring faults themselves.

"The sin that leads to the most unhappy results is the cold, critical, unforgiving spirit that characterizes Pharisaism. . . . He who is guilty of wrong is the first to suspect wrong. By condemning another he is trying to conceal or excuse the evil of his own heart."—*Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, p. 126.

11. *They are unprincipled, secretive, and deceptive.* On the whole, pseudoreformers follow practices that are neither strictly honest nor honorable. They find their financial support by playing on the sympathies of members of the church they are seeking to undermine. They make it a practice to worship in Adventist churches and encourage their followers to do the same—thus escaping the burden of supporting local churches of their own. At the same time they siphon off for their own private use the tithes and offerings of these adherents. Their accounts are

not subject to audit, and they use the funds entrusted to them according to their personal whims. Furthermore, by remaining in Seventh-day Adventist circles, they and their adherents can bore away from within.

Another unprincipled practice of pseudoreformers is to broadcast private messages from Mrs. White, intended only for the individuals named, and other confidential matters that should have been regarded as a sacred trust. In so doing they hope to bring reproach upon the cause of God. In all such activities those who have, at least in spirit, broken away from the ranks of the church and are engaged in attacks against it, reveal their allegiance to the great deceiver.

"It was a betrayal of sacred trust to take that which Jesus designed should be kept secret, and publish it to others, and bring upon the cause of truth reproach and injury. The Lord has given to His people appropriate messages of warning, reproof, counsel, and instruction, but it is not appropriate to take these messages out of their connection and place them where they will seem to give force to messages of error. . . . This is a work that is neither honorable nor righteous." —*Testimonies to Ministers*, p. 36.

12. *They misuse the "Testimonies."* A favorite device of some would-be reformers is to quote the *Testimonies* as though they were a denunciation of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and then urge people to leave its communion under the charge that it has been rejected by God. Throughout her long years of ministry Mrs. White vehemently denounced those who have made such a use of her writings.

"Those who have proclaimed the Seventh-day Adventist Church as Babylon have made use of the *Testimonies* in giving their position a seeming support; but why is it that they did not present that which for years has been the burden of my message,—the unity of the church? Why did they not quote the words of the angel, 'Press together, press together, press together'? Why did they not repeat the admonition and state the principle, that 'in union there is strength, in division there is weakness'? It is such messages as these men have borne that divide the church, and put us to shame before the enemies of truth; and in such messages is plainly revealed the specious working of the great deceiver, who would hinder the church from attaining unto perfection in unity." —*Ibid.*, p. 56.

Now, we do not claim perfection for the Seventh-day Adventist Church, but it is nevertheless God's church and it will go on to final

triumph. Throughout history there have been imperfections among those who profess to serve the Lord. This was true in the days of Moses and David, in New Testament times, and it is true today. But imperfect though the church may be, *it is still God's church*. Frail and human though the leaders may be, they are still the chosen of God.

"Although there are evils existing in the church, and will be until the end of the world, the church in these last days is to be the light of the world that is polluted and demoralized by sin. The church, enfeebled and defective, needing to be reprov-

ed, and counseled, is the only object upon earth upon which Christ bestows His supreme regard." —*Ibid.*, pp. 49, 50.

"God has a distinct people, a church on earth, second to none, but superior to all in their facilities to teach the truth, to vindicate the law of God. God has divinely appointed agencies—men whom He is leading. . . . Let all unite with these chosen agents, and be found at last among those who have the patience of the saints, who keep the commandments of God, and have the faith of Jesus." —*Ibid.*, p. 58.

(Second of Two Parts)

## The Nervous Child—Whose Fault?

By Harold Shryock, M.D., *Department of Anatomy*  
*College of Medical Evangelists*

OUR boy has always been nervous and fearful," a mother told me. "He is an adopted child. We have had him since he was two weeks old. He is now eight years old and is having some difficulty getting along in school."

I asked this mother to be more specific about how the child's nervousness is manifested. "Well," she said, "even as a small child he was so afraid that he refused to sleep by himself. I used to let him sleep in my bed until he was about four years old. Then when he

began sleeping in his own bed, he insisted that he have his little dog with him at night. About this time he began to stutter." She continued, "He has always had a temper. Of course, I think he uses the temper to try to get the things he wants. He seems to manifest it especially when there is company and when he feels that he is not getting enough attention. Because he was so nervous we tutored him at home through the first grade. He went to school when he was seven. The experience of going to school seemed to make him even more nervous, and for a while he even walked in his sleep at night. The teacher has told us that he is not too cooperative at school, and that she has trouble with him because he insists on whispering to the other children. Recently he has been telling things that are not true."

I asked whether this child knew he was an adopted child. "Yes," the mother replied. "We told him. He has known it from the time he was old enough to understand what we said to him. As far as we can tell, his being adopted does not seem to bother him."



EWING GALLOWAY

A child with a nervous disposition probably lacks what every child needs—to be loved, to feel that he belongs, to feel that he amounts to something.